GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1550
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
EQUITY CAP ON CABLE NETWORK
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the 20% equity cap on broadcasting companies in cable network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sought Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to review the restrictions on Direct-to-Home (DTH);

(d) if so, the reaction of TRAI in this regard;

(e) whether the Government has held discussion with stakeholders in this respect; and

(f) if so, the outcome of such discussions?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) & (b): The Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act does not prescribe any cap on broadcasting companies in Cable Networks.The Act only prescribe foreign investment cap of 49% for companies in cable network service.

(c): Yes, Sir. Government on 22.5.2008 has sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on cross media and ownership restrictions provided in various broadcasting segment including DTH.

(d): TRAI has not come up with its recommendations in the matter.

(e): No, Sir.

(f): Does not arise.